

# Exploring Traditions: The Jewish Faith

*Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Torah, the Synagogue, and the observance of Shabbat within the Jewish faith.*

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of Jewish beliefs and practices to provide thoughtful, detailed answers. Ensure your explanations show a clear understanding of religious significance.

In the Jewish tradition, faith is woven into daily life and community. The Torah, the holy scroll, is kept with great reverence. The Synagogue serves as a house of prayer, study, and assembly. From the sunset on Friday until the appearance of three stars on Saturday night, Jewish families observe Shabbat, a day of rest and reflection that mirrors the creation story.

*Word bank: Torah · Synagogue · Shabbat · Rabbi · Ark · Mitzvah · Kiddush · Challah*

**1. Explain why the Torah is considered the most sacred object in a Synagogue and describe how it is treated by the community. (3 marks)**

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**2. Compare and contrast the function of a Synagogue with other places of worship you have studied. How does the community space reflect Jewish values? (4 marks)**

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**3. Justify why Shabbat is described as a 'day of rest'. What might happen to a family's weekly routine if they strictly observe these traditions? (3 marks)**

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**4. Define the term 'Mitzvah'. How does performing a Mitzvah contribute to the Jewish concept of 'Tikkun Olam' (repairing the world)? (3 marks)**

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**5. What might happen if the community did not have a central place to gather, such as a Synagogue? Discuss the impact on religious identity. (3 marks)**

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6. If you were designing a display to explain the importance of Shabbat to someone unfamiliar with the faith, which three symbols or actions would you include and why? (4 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw the inside of a Synagogue, ensuring you include the Ark where the Torah scrolls are kept and the eternal light (Ner Tamid) hanging above it. Label these items clearly.



*Extension challenge: Max the monkey has been researching the importance of the number seven in Jewish tradition, especially regarding the creation story and Shabbat. Write a short, reflective poem or a paragraph explaining why 'rest' is valued as much as 'work' in human life, connecting it to the Jewish concept of the seventh day.*